ATLAS

ASTONISHING

AUG.

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NO. 26

# Astonishing

## "I DIED TOO OFTEN!"

10¢

MONKEY FACE!

SCARED OF HIS OWN SHADOW!

COME IN AND MEET THE FOLKS!

DANGER!

AUTHORIZED A. C. M. P.

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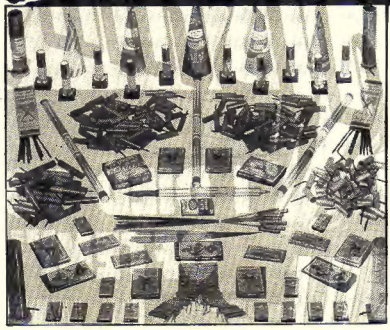

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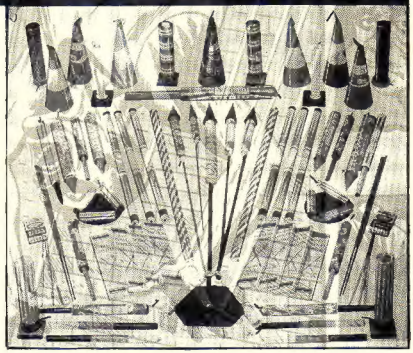

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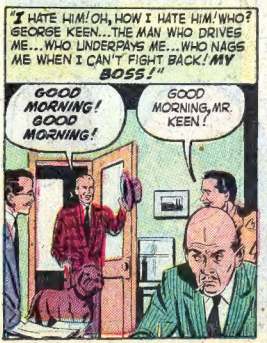
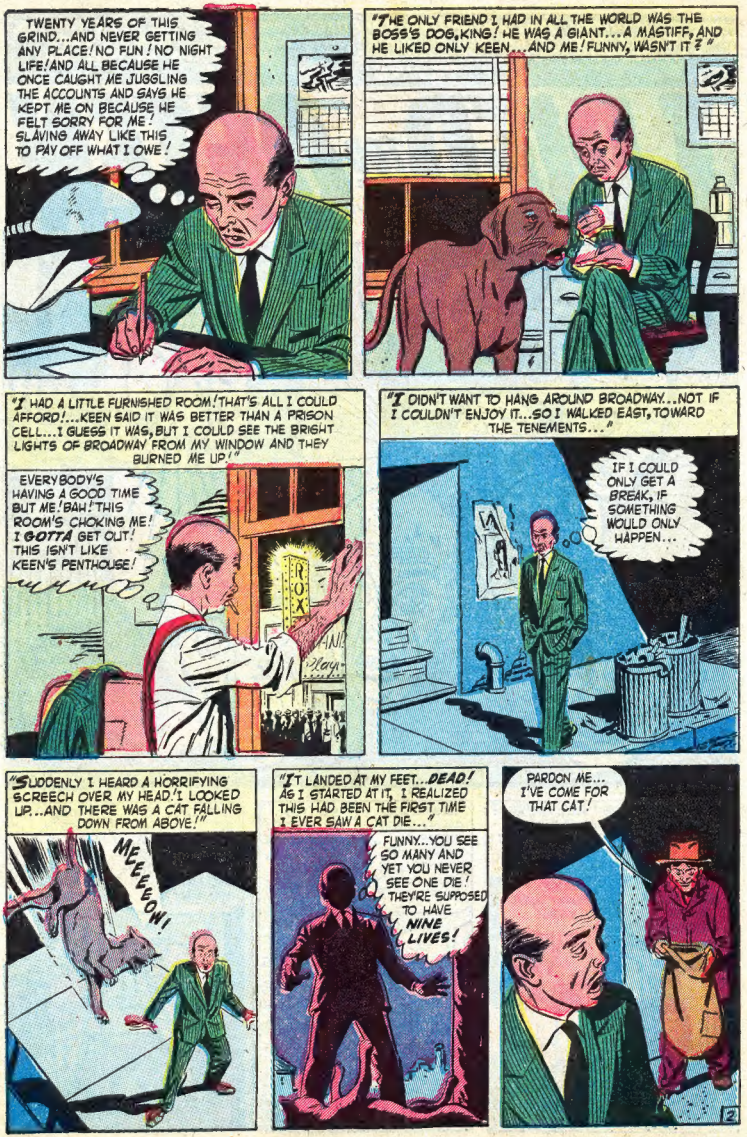
FOR YOUR INITIAL **ASTONISHING** APPETIZER, WE INTRODUCE TIMID THOMAS, A SMALL-TIME CLERK IN A BIG-TIME TOWN, WHO WAS **DYING** TO **LIVE** DANGEROUSLY... BUT SOMETIMES HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION HE WAS JUST **TRYING** TO **DIE!**

# I DIED TOO OFTEN


"I HATE HIM! OH, HOW I HATE HIM! WHO? GEORGE KEEN...THE MAN WHO DRIVES ME...WHO UNDERPAYS ME...WHO NAGS ME WHEN I CAN'T FIGHT BACK! MY BOSS!"
GOOD MORNING! GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING, MR. KEEN!

I SWEAR I DON'T SEE WHAT KING SEES IN YOU! HE'S ABOUT THE ONLY ONE I KNOW OF WHO LIKES YOU! HA! HAH! HA!
MAKING FUN OF ME IN FRONT OF ALL THE OTHERS! WHAT I WOULDN'T DO TO GET EVEN!


TWENTY YEARS OF THIS GRIND...AND NEVER GETTING ANY PLACE! NO FUN! NO NIGHT LIFE! AND ALL BECAUSE HE ONCE CAUGHT ME JUGGLING THE ACCOUNTS AND SAYS HE KEPT ME ON BECAUSE HE FELT SORRY FOR ME! SLAVING AWAY LIKE THIS TO PAY OFF WHAT I OWE!
"THE ONLY FRIEND I HAD IN ALL THE WORLD WAS THE BOSS'S DOG, KING! HE WAS A GIANT...A MASTIFF, AND HE LIKED ONLY KEEN...AND ME! FUNNY, WASN'T IT?"
"I HAD A LITTLE FURNISHED ROOM! THAT'S ALL I COULD AFFORD!...KEEN SAID IT WAS BETTER THAN A PRISON CELL....I GUESS IT WAS, BUT I COULD SEE THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF BROADWAY FROM MY WINDOW AND THEY BURNED ME UP!"
EVERYBODY'S HAVING A GOOD TIME BUT ME! BAH! THIS ROOM'S CHOKING ME! I GOTTA GET OUT! THIS ISN'T LIKE KEEN'S PENTHOUSE!
ROX
"I DIDN'T WANT TO HANG AROUND BROADWAY...NOT IF I COULDN'T ENJOY IT...SO I WALKED EAST, TOWARD THE TENEMENTS..."
IF I COULD ONLY GET A BREAK, IF SOMETHING WOULD ONLY HAPPEN...
"SUDDENLY I HEARD A HORRIFYING SCREECH OVER MY HEAD. I LOOKED UP...AND THERE WAS A CAT FALLING DOWN FROM ABOVE!"
MEEEEOW!
"IT LANDED AT MY FEET...DEAD! AS I STARTED AT IT, I REALIZED THIS HAD BEEN THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW A CAT DIE..."
FUNNY...YOU SEE SO MANY AND YET YOU NEVER SEE ONE DIE! THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE NINE LIVES!
PARDON ME... I'VE COME FOR THAT CAT!
2

YOU-YOU'VE COME FOR... THE CAT?
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M THE BURIER OF CATS! NOT A JOB THAT'S WELL-KNOWN TO MOST PEOPLE... BUT AN IMPORTANT ONE! YOU ARE VERY LUCKY, MY FRIEND!
ME... LUCKY? THAT'S A LAUGH!
NOT AT ALL! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU SEEN A CAT DIE?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME!
YOU SEE? VERY FEW ACTUALLY SEE A CAT DIE! DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK OF THAT? CATS, AFTER ALL, HAVE NINE LIVES, YOU KNOW!
YOU'RE TALKING IN RIDDLES! WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH ME?
EVERYTHING... IF YOU CHOOSE! IT'S UP TO YOU! I'M ONLY THE BURIER OF CATS! WHENEVER ONE DIES.. I TAKE IT AWAY! THAT'S ALL I DO! YOU TAKE THE CHOICE!
WHAT CHOICE?
WHY... WHETHER YOU WANT THE CAT'S NINE LIVES OR NOT! YOU SEE, WHOEVER SEES A CAT DIE ITS LAST DEATH IS ALLOWED TO TAKE OVER NINE LIVES OF ITS OWN... IF HE WANTS TO! DO YOU?
WAIT A MINUTE! LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT! DO YOU MEAN THAT I'LL HAVE NINE LIVES... LIKE A CAT? THAT I CAN DIE EIGHT TIMES... AND COME BACK EACH TIME... EXCEPT THE LAST?
THAT'S IT!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! IT'S AN OLD WIVES TALE ABOUT THE NINE LIVES OF A CAT ANYWAY!
HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY! YOU HAD YOUR CHOICE!
CRASH!
WELL, SIR? THAT WAS THE FIRST LIFE!
I'LL TAKE THEM! I'LL T-TAKE THE OTHER EIGHT!
2

"WITH THAT THE BURIER OF DEAD CATS VANISHED IN THE DARK! OF COURSE, THE FLOWER-BOX MISSING ME WAS JUST LUCK...BUT WHY SHOULDN'T I TAKE A CHANCE ON ACCEPTING THE OTHER EIGHT LIVES? WHAT DID I HAVE TO LOSE?"

WHEW! THAT WAS A STRANGE EXPERIENCE! BUT IMAGINE IF IT WERE TRUE... IF I DID HAVE ALL THOSE LIVES! THE THINGS I COULD DO... THE FUN I COULD HAVE!

"SUDDENLY, THERE BEFORE ME, WAS MY CHANCE TO SEE WHETHER I DID HAVE THOSE LIVES OR NOT! IT WAS ALSO MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE FROM MY RUT! THE GUY WAS LOADED IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE..."

"I SLUGGED HIM AND CLEANED OUT HIS POCKETS! HE HAD A MINT WITH HIM! THEN I RAN OFF STRAIGHT INTO THE PATH OF A COP!"

HOLD IT, THERE! WHAT'S GOING ON?

"I RAN PAST HIM, AND HE FIRED ONCE...TWICE...THREE...FOUR... FIVE...SIX TIMES! HE EMPTIED HIS GUN, BUT I KEPT GOING!"

WHAT THE...! THE BULLETS ARE GOING RIGHT THROUGH HIM!

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

"I GOT AWAY CLEAN! IN MY ROOM I THOUGHT IT OVER..."

IT'S TRUE! I HAVE GOT NINE LIVES! THOSE BULLETS PROVED IT! BUT I GOTTA BE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON! HOW MANY TIMES DID HE FIRE? SIX? THAT MEANS SEVEN LIVES ARE USED UP! ONE WAS USED UP WITH THE FLOWER BOX! I HAVE TWO LEFT!

"I TOOK CARE OF ONE PRETTY FAST WHEN I ROBBED A BANK OF ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE LIKE A PLAYBOY FOR YEARS!"

THAT GUY'S WEARING BULLET-PROOF CLOTHES!

STATE BANK

BANG! BANG!

"THAT NIGHT I HAD A WONDERFUL IDEA! I HAD ALL THE MONEY I NEEDED, AND NOW I WANTED ONE OTHER THING..."

I'M GONNA KILL KEEN... AND I'M NOT USING UP MY LAST LIFE TO DO IT, EITHER! HE'S ALONE TONIGHT ...WITH HIS DOG... AND THE MUTT LIKES ME! THIS IS YOUR FINISH, BOSS!

"TO MAKE SURE NOBODY SAW ME, I CLIMBED THE STAIRS TO THE PENT-HOUSE OF THE TWENTY STORY BUILDING! I COULD SEE KEEN THROUGH THE WINDOW, WITH HIS MASTIFF..."

THIS IS GONNA BE A CINCH!

"KING HEARD ME! HE GOT UP AND CAME OUTSIDE, GROWLING LOW..."
GRRRRR!
"BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A THING TO WORRY ABOUT! ALL I HAD TO DO WAS CALL HIS NAME! HE'D RECOGNIZE MY VOICE AND LET ME BY TO KILL HIS MASTER!"
HERE, KING!...
MEEEEOWW!
"WHAT WAS THE MATTER WITH ME? MY VOICE HAD SUDDENLY CHANGED TO A CAT'S MEOW! KING GLARED HARD, HIS BACK BRISTLING, FANGS SHOWING! I TRIED AGAIN..."
MMMEEEOOWWW!
GRRRR!
"KING LEAPED, FANGS BARED IN THE MOONLIGHT! AND HE LEAPED RIGHT AT ME! HE'S AFTER ME NOW, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG!"
"I CAN'T GET AWAY! THE ONLY WAY TO GO IS...DOWN! OFF THE EDGE OF THE ROOF! IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN GET AWAY FROM THAT HORRIBLE MONSTER..."
"NOW, I'M FALLING! I'M HEADING DOWNWARD...STRAIGHT TO THE SIDEWALK BELOW! WHAT'S THAT DOWN THERE? WHAT'S THAT?"
"IT'S THE BURIER OF DEAD CATS! HE'S WAITING FOR ME! I TRY TO CALL FOR HELP, BUT ALL THAT COMES OUT OF MY MOUTH IS..."
MEEEOOOWW!
ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

# BLOOM OF DEATH

THIS would be one of the easiest assignments of his career, Bill Compton decided.

"A snap," he muttered to himself. "One easy little job. Writing a couple of sticks about some flowers."

"Talking about snaps," his editor commented drily; "start snapping *out* of it, man! It's not going to be easy, I can tell you that right now. I've lost two reporters on this story already. There must be some reason why steady men like Burke and Kofillo never even bothered to come back and collect the pay that was owing to them."

"Hmmm," Bill said, his interest picking up. "You think they were murdered by this bunch of flower-worshippers, chief?"

"I don't know. The way I feel about it, if it was murder, there ought to be bodies. It's not so easy to dispose of one body, let alone two. But we couldn't find a trace of their bodies, alive or dead."

Bill Compton shook his head sagely. "Then they both probably got tired of working here and took off for the tall timber and whatever adventure they could find along the way. It's happened before, chief."

His editor shook his head in a violent negative. "Not to a quiet family man like Kofillo or a guy who loves his mother like Burke does. Or *did*. No, something went wrong and neither we nor the police department could figure it out. That's where you come in."

"Brainy Bill Compton, I'm known as."

"Brains my foot! What we need here is a good reporter, a man who can't be prevented from picking up a good story, a man who knows so much about pulling information out of people that he hardly has to try. What we need here, in other words, is what practically everybody calls, 'Nosy Bill Compton.' I hope you don't mind."

"Mind?" the reporter asked bitterly. "Why should I mind? And what good would it do me if I did?"

"That's the spirit," the other man encouraged. "Now first—"

"I know. I'm supposed to toddle down to the big flower show and ask the people who won the first prize about their particular blooms."

"No, no, *no!*" the editor told him in some irritation. "You do not! First because you'll get less information out of them than out of King Tut's mummy, and second because those are exactly the babies we suspect of finishing off or kidnapping Burke and Kofillo."

Bill whistled. "They are? Why, do you think?"

"If we knew the answer to that one question, we'd probably have the answer to everything. No, the first thing you do is wander up to some of the scientists and judges at the flower show and see what *they* think about this years prizewinners. Then you call me and I tell you where to go on from there."

"That'll be awfully slow, chief. What's the idea?"

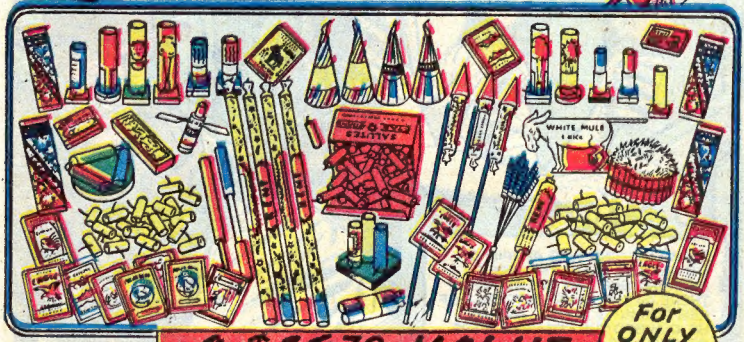
"The idea is that I'm trying to save your life. Sure we're going slow. We'll keep on going slow on this investigation until we know everything we need to know. Then we close in fast on those peculiar characters and the odd plants they worship!"

Bill wandered down to the flower show shortly afterwards. He strolled along the booths and displays, enjoying the riotous color and delicate scents.

After a while, he came to the flowers that had won first prize as the most unusual entries in the show. These were the people he'd been sent to investigate, he realized, as he glanced casually into the booth.

There were two attendants, both of them half-starved and greatly emaciated. They wore very poor clothes — in great contrast to the wealthy society matrons and gentlemen around

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

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OBVIOUSLY, TOMMY HAS EVERYTHING IN THE BAG... SO LET'S PAY A VISIT TO MRS. HIGGINS AS SHE SHOWS MR. JELICOE A FURNISHED ROOM! WILL EMMA HIGGINS' *DREAM* OF DOUBLE PROFIT ON A SINGLE ROOM TURN INTO A *NIGHTMARE?*

# AS DIFFERENT AS DAY AND NIGHT

YOU UNDERSTOOD MY AD IN THE PAPER, MR. JELICOE? THE GARRET IS FOR RENT ONLY FOR DAYTIME OCCUPANCY...
I'LL NOT BE HOME ANY NIGHT, MADAM...
EMMA HIGGINS WAS AFRAID OF MR. JELICOE FROM THE FIRST MOMENT SHE SAW HIM STANDING THERE IN THE DARK ENTRANCE OF HER ROOMING HOUSE... AND AS HE CLIMBED THE CREAKING STEPS BEHIND HER THE FEAR GREW STRONGER...
THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST *ASTONISHING* STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!

BUT AS THE STRANGE MAN DREW SOME BILLS FROM HIS POCKET, EMMA HIGGINS EYED THEM GREEDILY...

AND WHILE HER NEW ROOMER GLANCED ABOUT THE UGLY LITTLE GARRET, EMMA SLYLY PUSHED AN OLD SUITCASE UNDER THE BED...

THERE'S NO NEED TO TELL MR. JELICOE AND MR. BANCROFT ABOUT EACH OTHER.. IT'S QUITE A BREAK FOR ME GETTING FOUR DOLLARS A PIECE FROM THEM FOR THIS ONE LITTLE GARRET!
NEW

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, BEFORE MR. JELICOE ARRIVED, EMMA HIGGINS WAS AS SHARP-TONGUED AND UNPLEASANT TO HER ROOMERS AS USUAL
SO IT'S CLEAN LINENS YOU'RE WANTING, MRS. CLARK!. WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE DO WHAT YOU'VE GOT TILL YOU PAY LAST WEEK'S RENT!
OH...HELLO, MISS HIGGINS...YOU NEEDN'T B-BOTHER STRAIGHTENING MY ROOM...I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT WHEN I GET HOME...
MR. WILLIAMS, IF YOU DON'T SETTLE YOUR BILL HERE, YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER COMING HOME!
FOR ALVIN BANCROFT, WHO USED THE GARRET BY NIGHT, EMMA HAD SMILES AND WARMTH... BUT NO WORD ABOUT THE MAN WHO WAS TO SHARE HIS ROOM BY DAY...
AH GOOD MORNING MISS H-GG-NS
GOOD MORNING TO YOU, MR BANCROFT. MY, BUT IT'S GOOD TO SEE SOMEONE SMILING ABOUT HERE FOR A CHANGE
I COULD MARRY A GOOD, HARD-WORKING MAN LIKE HIM...ALWAYS ON TIME WITH HIS RENT, TOO... SO DEPENDABLE
THE SPINSTER LANDLADY, LOST IN HAPPY THOUGHT, WORKED HER WAY UP TO THE GARRET FLOOR..
..MRS. ALVIN BANCROFT IT'S A PRETTY NAME! ONE I'D BE PROUD TO SHARE!
EMMA HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT MR JELICOE...THEN SUDDENLY SHE FELT SOMEONE WATCHING HER.. AND THERE HE WAS!
OHH! I...I DIDN'T HEAR ANYONE COME UP...
I WAS A FOOL EVER TO TAKE THAT HORRIBLE CREATURE AS A ROOMER THE WAY HE SNEAKED UP THERE...I COULD'VE DIED OF HEART FAILURE!

HOW COULD I HAVE DONE A THING LIKE THAT TO POOR MR. BANCROFT... HE'S SUCH A GOOD MAN... AND THAT MR. JELICOE, WHY THERE'S EVIL WRIT ALL OVER HIS FACE!
AS THE DAYS WENT BY, EMMA HIGGINS BECAME MORE AND MORE AFRAID OF MR. JELICOE...
THE WAY HE SNEAKS UP THE BACK STAIRS LIKE THAT... I NEVER KNOW WHEN HE COMES OR GOES, OR WHAT HE DOES FOR A LIVING...
I HAD NO RIGHT TO SHARE THAT GARRET BETWEEN HIM AND MR. BANCROFT... WHY, THEY'RE AS DIFFERENT AS DAY AND NIGHT! I DREAD TO THINK OF 'EM EVER MEETING...
THE FOLLOWING MORNING, SOMETHING APPEARED IN THE PAPER THAT GAVE EMMA NEW CAUSE TO BE FRIGHTENED...
The MORNING CLARION
FIEND STRIKES AGAIN! CLAIMS SIXTH VICTIM!
HOMICIDAL MANIAC ROBS, STRANGLES ANOTHER WOMAN!
THAT MR. JELICOE, HE COULD BE THE FIEND... HIM AND HIS QUEER WAYS! I GOT TO FIND OUT SOMEHOW...
A SHORT WHILE LATER SHE WAS ON THE STAIRS, PRETENDING TO BE BUSY TILL MR. BANCROFT PASSED...
YES, IT'S A VERY FINE MORNING, MRS. HIGGINS!
POOR MAN... HE DON'T SUSPECT HE'S SHARING HIS ROOM WITH ANYBODY AT ALL, LET ALONE A MAN THAT MIGHT BE A MURDERER!
IF MR. JELICOE COMES WHILE I'M LOOKING IN THERE, I CAN PRETEND I WAS CLEANING!

EMMA SLIPPED INTO THE GARRET, AND WITH SHAKING HANDS UNLOCKED THE CUPBOARD SHE HAD ASSIGNED TO MR. JELICOE FOR HIS THINGS...

(GASP!) B-BLOOD! STICKY BLOOD ALL OVER HIS CLOTHES!

I KNEW IT! THAT MR. JELICOE IS THE FIEND! GOT TO CALL THE POLICE BEFORE HE ROBS AND MURDERS ME, TOO!

SOON THE POLICE CAME...EMMA HIGGINS LED THEM TO THE GARRET, AND TOGETHER THEY LOOKED AT MR. JELICOE'S COAT...

IT SURE LOOKS LIKE BLOOD, MRS. HIGGINS, BUT THAT DOESN'T PROVE YOUR BOARDER IS A KILLER!

YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE IN THIS HOUSE UNPROTECTED! HE MAY COME HOME ANY MINUTE...FOR ALL I KNOW HE MAY BE HERE SPYING ON ME RIGHT NOW!

IF YOU COULD JUST SEE MR. JELICOE ONCE YOU'D KNOW HE MUST BE A MURDERER!

DON'T WORRY, LADY ...WE'RE GOING TO STAY RIGHT HERE TILL HE COMES...

MR. JELICOE DID NOT COME HOME ALL THAT DAY...BUT AFTER NIGHTFALL THE STAIRS LEADING TO THE GARRET CREAKED UNDER THE HEAVY FOOTSTEPS OF A MAN...

WATCH IT, BOYS...THERE MAY BE TROUBLE...

THEY HELD THEIR BREATH AS THE MAN HESITATED OUTSIDE THE GARRET DOOR FOR A MOMENT, AND THEY SPRANG AS HE FLUNG THE DOOR OPEN...

DON'T TRY TO GET AWAY, MISTER, OR YOU MIGHT GET HURT!

WHAT IS THIS, MISS HIGGINS?

WHY, IT'S JUST MR. BANCROFT... THIS IS HIS ROOM!

YOU SAID YOUR ROOMER'S NAME WAS JELICOE... NOW YOU SAY IT'S BANCROFT! WHICH IS IT, LADY?

I WAS ASHAMED TO MENTION IT BEFORE! MR. BANCROFT WORKS EVERY DAY, AND MR. JELICOE EVERY NIGHT... SO I RENTED THE ROOM TO BOTH OF THEM!

...AND YOU KEPT 'EM FROM FINDING OUT ABOUT EACH OTHER? DARNDEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD OF!
I'M SORRY FOR DOING A THING LIKE THAT TO YOU, MR. BANCROFT!
I DON'T MIND, EMMA...MISS HIGGINS...
A THRILL SURGED THROUGH EMMA HIGGINS! ALVIN BANCROFT HAD CALLED HER BY HER FIRST NAME...
I...ER...I'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH HERE WITH MR. BANCROFT...
I DON'T THINK THIS MR. JELICOE IS COMING BACK HERE, ANYHOW, BUT I'LL LEAVE A MAN OUTSIDE, JUST IN CASE...
EMMA THEN USED ALL HER FEMININE WILES ON THE SHYLY SMILING MAN...
I DO FEEL SAFE WITH YOU...ALVIN...A WOMAN NEEDS A STRONG MAN ABOUT...
SHE TRIED TO SHOW HER INTEREST IN HIM...HE HESITANTLY PUT HIS HANDS ON HER SHOULDERS...
TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOURSELF...THE KIND OF WORK YOU DO...
MISS HIGGINS...I...
THEN HIS STRONG HANDS SLIPPED ABOUT HER THROAT...
CALL ME EMMA, ALVIN...DO YOU WORK IN A FACTORY, ALVIN? WHERE DO YOU GO WHEN YOU LEAVE HERE EVERY MORNING?
ALVIN...!
I...
...NEVER...
...LEAVE...
...HERE!
5

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

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Be the first in your neighborhood to have this valuable set of stamps. Your friends will envy you for it and want to buy the set from you It will become one of the most prized sets of any stamp collection But you must hurry. This special offer may have to be withdrawn soon Rush coupon NOW!

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If you mail coupon AT ONCE, we will send you, *free*, this fascinating booklet. Supply limited. So rush coupon NOW!

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I enclose 25¢ Please send set of 30 historic U S. Stamps Also send FREE—while supply lasts—the fascinating booklet, "How to Collect Postage Stamps"

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zone____ State____

.. CONTINUED

them.

But they didn't seem to be interested in anything around them, including Bill Compton.

They were on their knees, their hands raised yearningly to the enormous potted plants above them. And, at the sight of the flowers which had won first prize, Bill forgot about the strange postures of the attendants.

The flowers were — unlike anything else he'd ever seen on Earth, or even dreamed of!

Almost a foot wide they were, some a pure rich white, others a lustrous and glowing black, with petals so large and so thick as to be almost like slabs of colored leather! They didn't taper into the stem, but continued as flowers for about six feet of length until they abruptly curved out of sight into a pale stem that was slightly thicker than an arm!

And the flowers waved! Back and forth they seemed to wave, almost like the heads of snakes on their enormous stems that undulated in a slow and hypnotic rhythm.

Bill almost heard sound coming from the open blossoms: a steady murmur it sounded like, as if a cry of some sort were being muttered in a plant-like sleep. He shook himself to clear his head. In a moment, he'd be falling for this wacky nonsense!

But he could certainly understand why these blooms had won first prize. And why scientists were going crazy over the owners' refusal to have them examined! Science felt it could learn a lot from these strange flowers about the construction of life — but what could it do when the only people who had a right to the gorgeous blossoms insisted on keeping them for a strange cultist worship that admitted no outsiders?

Although he knew he should be looking up the judges, Bill found himself wandering into the booth in fascination. "Just

take one close-up look and then I'll scoot," he promised himself.

He noted there were five great flowering plants in all, rising majestically out of their tremendous pots. One of them seemed to brush against him as he entered and he chuckled at his imagination. Still, it was sort of spooky in this place: the booth had been so constructed that outsiders could only see the inside if they stood directly in the doorway.

The reporter shook himself again. Better get back to business, he decided. But just on the off-chance he might get a clue from their reactions, he asked: "You boys wouldn't happen to have heard of two reporters named Burke and Kofillo, by any chance?"

It seemed to him that another flower reached out to push against him and he shoved it away impatiently. And then he realized that one of the men had moved behind him! He started to turn and felt a sharp blow under his right ear. He began to crumple to the floor, just conscious enough to realize that the man in front of him had emptied some sort of liquid over his body which immediately began to feel very tired.

He curved his arms over his head and closed his eyes. He felt so very, very tired! What kind of barrel were they trying to shove his feet into? He really didn't care, just so he could sleep . . .

An hour later one of the judges came by and looked inside. "You know," he said, "it's really wonderful how those flowers of yours reproduce! When you started to exhibit them, you only had three; this morning you had five; and now, now I notice you have six! Positively amazing, those flowers!"

THE END 9702

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**IT'S EASY TO ORDER**

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**FREE!**

*Order right away! With your order, write the name and address of another boy or girl in your town who might like to receive our free catalog. With your order we'll include an EXTRA package containing $1.00 worth of assorted Flashcrackers absolutely free!*

**$1.00 PACKAGE FREE FLASHCRACKERS**

**ACE FIREWORKS CO.**
Dept. 15—P.O. BOX 148
MAYWOOD—CALIFORNIA

# REVERSIBLE AUTO SEAT COVERS

**MADE OF FLEXTON — HEAVY GAUGE PLASTIC**

**GUARANTEED FOR LONG WEAR**

• Waterproof and stain proof. Easy to attach to seats for perfect fit. Roomy and neat. Elastic shirring and reinforced overlap side grips insure perfect seat coverage. Will dress up your car's interior and give protection to seat upholstery. Whisk off mud, oil, sand, grime with a damp rag for bright as new appearance. Sewn with Nylon thread for long wear and durability.

FITS ALL CARS

**ORDER FROM MANUFACTURER AND SAVE!**

Choice of split or front seat styles only **$2.98** each. Complete set for Front & Rear only **$5.00.** Specify make of car and seat style with each order. Save Money and buy a set today

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Leopard Cowhide design on Printed Flexton Plastic. Leopard Skin on one side, Cowhide on the other. Either side gives beauty to your car's seats. Never gets dirty for it cleans with a whisk of a damp cloth. Front or Rear. **$2.98**

**RUSH ORDER TODAY!**

**5 day Money Back Guarantee!**

MARDO SALES CORPORATION, DEPT. DS-540
420 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

Please send me seat covers I have marked. I can try for 10 days and return for refund of purchase price if I am not satisfied

- ☐ Zebra-Snake Design, Reversible
- ☐ Leopard Cowhide Design, Reversible
- ☐ Split Seat $2.98 ☐ Solid Seat $2.98
- ☐ Set (Front & Rear) $5.00
- ☐ I enclose payment ☐ Send C.O.D

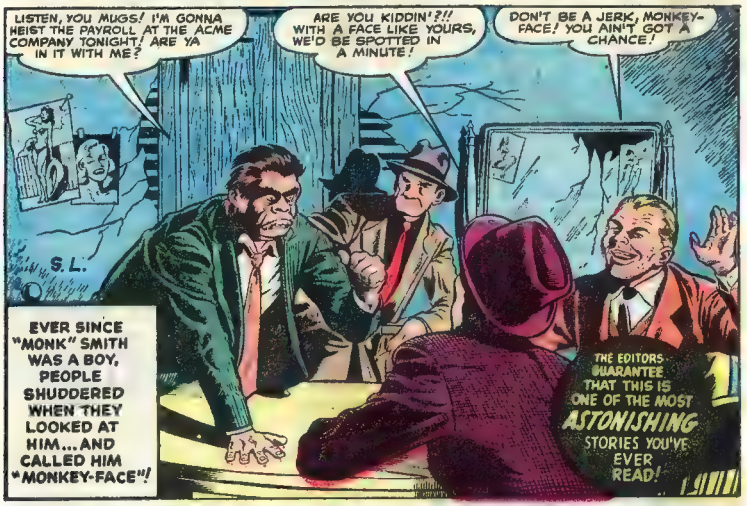
Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zone_____ State_____

SO ALVIN TURNED OUT TO BE A TWO-FACED BOARDER...WELL, MAYBE SOMETIMES *TWO* FACES ARE BETTER THAN *ONE*...ESPECIALLY ONE LIKE MONK SMITH'S! MONK THOUGHT ANY CHANGE WOULD BE A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER, BUT THERE WAS *ONE* CHANGE HE HADN'T COUNTED ON!

# MONKEY FACE!


LISTEN, YOU MUGS! I'M GONNA HEIST THE PAYROLL AT THE ACME COMPANY TONIGHT! ARE YA IN IT WITH ME?
ARE YOU KIDDIN'?!! WITH A FACE LIKE YOURS, WE'D BE SPOTTED IN A MINUTE!
DON'T BE A JERK, MONKEY-FACE! YOU AIN'T GOT A CHANCE!
S. L.
EVER SINCE "MONK" SMITH WAS A BOY, PEOPLE SHUDDERED WHEN THEY LOOKED AT HIM...AND CALLED HIM "MONKEY-FACE"!
THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST ASTONISHING STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!

AND SO, THAT NIGHT MONK SMITH AND HIS ACCOMPLICES ROBBED THE ACME COMPANY OF A PAY-ROLL TOTALLING MORE THAN $20,000!
WHAT ARE YOU MEN DOING THERE?
DON'TCHA KNOW IT AIN'T POLITE TO POINT?
UGH!
BANG
YA IDIOT! YA SHOULDN'TA SHOT 'IM! NOW THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD WILL BE SWARMING WITH COPS!
WHEEEEEE
LISTEN! HERE THEY COME NOW!
THEY'RE COMIN' IN THE FRONT DOOR!
WE GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' TO DELAY 'EM, SO THAT WE CAN SCRAM BY THE BACK DOOR!
I KNOW SOMETHIN' THAT'LL HOLD 'EM UP FOR A WHILE!
WHAT IS IT?
THIS!!
BLAM BAM BANG
I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO TAKE IT ON THE LAM WITH THE DOUGH WHILE THE COPS TRY TO FIGGER OUT WHO DID THE SHOOTING AND IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!
MONK... YA... YA WON'T GIT (GASP!) AWAY WITH THIS!! I'LL RAT ON YA... I SWEAR...
HE'S RIGHT... I'LL NEVER GET AWAY... WITH THIS FACE OF MINE! IF ROCKY TALKS, EVERY COP IN THE STATE'LL BE LOOKIN' FOR ME, AND I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DISGUISE THIS FACE!
I'D SWAP MY SOUL FOR A CHANCE TO CHANGE MY LOOKS!

JUST A MINUTE, MY FRIEND... I'D LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU!
HUH? WH-WHO ARE YOU?? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT YOUR SOUL! I HEARD YOU SAY YOU'D SWAP IT FOR A CHANCE TO CHANGE YOUR LOOKS!
YOU'RE CRAZY! NOW BEAT IT, BEFORE I FEED YA A SLUG!
DO YOU STILL THINK I'M CRAZY?
(GULP!) IT...IT CAN'T BE!! BU--BUT IT IS!!
YOU SAID YOU'D SWAP YOUR SOUL! SOULS ARE MY BUSINESS!! I WANT YOUR SOUL! WHAT DO YOU WANT IN RETURN?
I MUST BE DREAMIN'... BUT WHAT'VE I GOT TO LOSE?
I ALWAYS LOOKED LIKE A FREAK WITH THIS MONKEY FACE OF MINE! I WANNA CHANGE SO I DON'T LOOK LIKE A FREAK ANY MORE! I WANNA BE NORMAL!
THAT'S A SIMPLE REQUEST! AND IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR THE ACQUISITION OF YOUR SOUL!! I'LL GRANT YOUR WISH!
THERE!
YOU LOOK NORMAL NOW! AND I MIGHT ADD THAT YOUR NEW LOOKS SUIT YOUR NATURE MUCH BETTER THAN YOUR OLD ONES!

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

# Hi there, Pal! Win Some of these 100 Silver Anniversary Prizes!

I just won $100. and this 15" tall Silver Trophy
I just won this $1,000,000 Body and a Gold Medal!

You Can Win All These just as I did in 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY!

## I GAINED 60 LBS. OF HANDSOME HARD-HITTING MUSCLES!

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO GET FOR ALL 5 10¢ PICTURE PACKED COURSES MILLIONS HAVE BEEN SOLD FOR $1 AND MORE

John Sill NOW

Which of these 2 ME'S is YOU? that 125 lb.—6 ft. CHICKEN CHESTED WEAKLING BELOW WAS ME A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO

Yes! You still can win $100 and other 25th Anniversary Prizes, if you MAIL coupon below NOW. Your success can soon be like mine. A few weeks ago I was a skinny weakling like you. I had no guts to fight for my rights. TODAY everyone admires my champ movie-star build. My mighty ARMS My heroic CHEST My wide manly SHOULDERS My POPULARITY with boys. The way GIRLS go for me—once so girl-shy My new prowess in SPORTS. My new quickness in STUDIES. My double-energy at work.

There's that skinny scarecrow JOHN. Let's pass him by!

John Sill before

**NO!** friend you don't have to be **SKINNY** any more. Just mail **NOW** the **FREE** coupon below as I did. Soon **YOU** can add **7** inches to your **CHEST** **3½** inches to EACH **ARM** and the rest in proportion as I did.

How to Build MIGHTY ARMS

How to Build A MIGHTY CHEST

How to Build A MIGHTY BACK

How to Build MIGHTY LEGS

How to Build A MIGHTY GRIP

FREE PHOTO BOOK HOW to Achieve Nerves of Steel, Muscles of Iron

How to BECOME A MIGHTY HE-MAN

Come On, PAL NOW YOU give me 10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR OWN HOME and I'll give YOU A NEW HE-MAN BODY for your OLD SKELETON FRAME says George F. Jowett World's Greatest Builder of HE-MEN

GEORGE F. JOWETT "Champion of Champions" 6 Times Winner Perfect Man Contest

JOHN SILL was a 125 lb. 6 ft. WEAKLING LOOK at him NOW. A MOVIE-STAR HE-MAN from Head to Toe as YOU can be soon!

**NO!** I don't care how skinny or flabby you are, if you're a teen-ager, in your 20's or 30's or over, if you're short or tall, or what work you do. All I want is JUST 10 EXCITING MINUTES in your home to MAKE YOU OVER by the SAME METHOD I turned myself from a wreck to a Champion of Champions

**YES!** You'll see INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to YOUR ARMS. Your CHEST deepened. Your BACK AND SHOULDERS broadened From head to heels, you'll become an ALL-Around, ALL-American HE-MAN WINNER—or my Training won't cost you one solitary cent.

**Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES**
**Gain Pounds, INCHES, FAST!**

After a LIFETIME STUDY of every way known to develop your body I have devised the BEST by TEST, my "5-WAY PROGRESSIVE POWER" the only method that builds you 5-ways fast You save YEARS, DOLLARS like movie star Tom Tyler did. Like champ John Sill did. Like MANY THOUSANDS like you did. SO Mail coupon NOW!

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Dear George Please mail to me FREE Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men and a Muscle Meter, plus all 5 HE MAN Building Courses 1 How to Build a Mighty Chest 2 How to Build a Mighty Arm 3 How to Build a Mighty Grip 4 How to Build a Mighty Back 5 How to Build Mighty Legs Now all in One Volume "How to become a Mighty HE-MAN" ENCLOSED FIND 10¢ FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING (No C.O.D.'s).

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PERHAPS MONK'S **NEW LOOK** WASN'T MUCH OF AN IMPROVEMENT, BUT YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYBODY! TAKE A GUY LIKE PERCY, FOR EXAMPLE... WE'VE KNOWN SOME TIMID MEN IN OUR TIME, BUT THIS CHARACTER TOOK THE **CAKE**...AND ANY GUY WITH **CRUST** COULD PUSH HIM AROUND!

# SCARED OF HIS OWN SHADOW!

OOPS... SORRY! EXCUSE ME!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING NEXT TIME, YOU CLUMSY OAF!
MERRIWEATHER, IF ANY OF THAT SOUP SPILLS ON ME...
Roast Beef $1.15
Pot Roast
LOUIS Ravielli
THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST ASTONISHING STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!

IF THERE WAS A DIRTY JOB TO BE DONE AT THE OFFICE, THEY NEVER HESITATED TO GIVE IT TO PERCY MERRIWEATHER... AND HE NEVER HESITATED TO DO IT...

DURING SUBWAY RUSH HOURS, IF SOMEONE WENT THROUGH ON HIS DIME, MERRIWEATHER WAS TOO SHY TO PROTEST!... HE PUT IN ANOTHER COIN FOR HIMSELF...

AND IF THE ELEVATOR WAS CROWDED, RATHER THAN ASK THE OTHER PEOPLE TO MOVE BACK, THE TIMID CREATURE WOULD WALK DOWN...

BUT ALONE AT HOME, HE TOOK OUT HIS FRUSTRATIONS ON THE ONE THING HE COULD BOSS...HIS SHADOW! HE BOXED IT FURIOUSLY...

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, YEAR AFTER YEAR, HIS PENT-UP REPRESSIONS WERE TAKEN ON BY HIS OBEDIENT SHADOW, UNTIL SUDDENLY, ONE NIGHT...

MY ARM'S SHADOW ...IT MOVED... BUT MY ARM *DIDN'T!*

BUT HARDLY DOES HE FEEL AT EASE, WHEN WITH FANTASTIC DEVILTRY, THE SHADOW MOVES AGAIN...

I CAN'T HOLD MY ARMS STILL! THE SHADOW IS MAKING ME *OBEY* ITS FORM! MY BODY'S BECOME *MY SHADOW'S SHADOW!*

THE SHADOW MOVES, SEEMINGLY INDEPENDENT OF ITS SOURCE, AS HIS ARM TRIES TO IMITATE ITS OWN SHADOW...

THAT'S BETTER! THEY MATCH!

STUNNED AT THE TERRIFYING DEFIANCE OF HIS OWN SHADOW, MERRIWEATHER GOES FOR A WALK LATE IN THE NIGHT...

I'VE BEEN IMAGINING IT ALL! A LITTLE FRESH AIR WILL CLEAR MY HEAD AND EVERYTHING WILL BE RIGHT AGAIN...

BUS STOP

THERE'S MY SHADOW! IT'S MOVING TOWARD THAT MAN...BUT *I'M* STANDING STILL!

MY SHADOW'S STRANGLING THAT MAN'S SHADOW ...BUT MY HANDS ARE BY MY SIDE!

BUT THEY REMAIN THERE ONLY FOR A SECOND, AND THEN THE HANDS ARE STRANGELY COMPELLED TO REACH FORWARD AND CLOSE AROUND THE UNSUSPECTING MAN'S THROAT, PERFECTLY MATCHING THEIR SHADOW...

*NO! NO! I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, BUT I CAN'T STOP!*

I K-KILLED HIM! BUT I NEVER HURT A FLY IN MY WHOLE LIFE! MY SHADOW MADE ME DO IT!

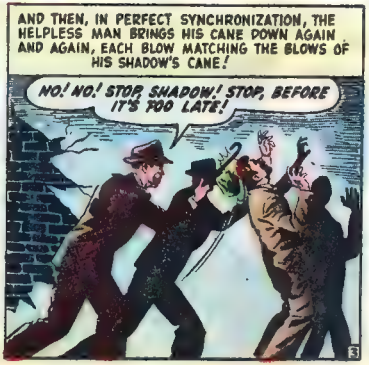
IN COLD TERROR AT HIS OWN EVIL DEED, PERCY MERRIWEATHER FLEES HOME AND TURNS OFF ALL THE LIGHTS...

THE NEXT DAY PASSES, AS MERRIWEATHER REMAINS INDOORS, LEST THE SUN CAST HIS MALEVOLENT SHADOW! BUT THAT NIGHT, HE VENTURES INTO THE DARK...
I MUST GET SOME AIR! IT'S SAFE HERE... THERE'S NO LIGHT IN THIS ALLEY!

N-NO!

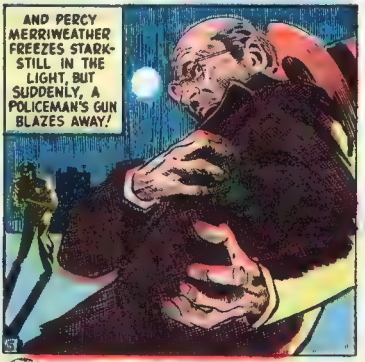
MY SHADOW'S BACK! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE LIGHT!

BUT AS MERRIWEATHER TURNS TO FLEE THE LIGHT, HIS SHADOW REFUSES TO FOLLOW AND SETS BRUTALLY UPON THE SHADOW OF A PASSING MAN...


AND THEN, IN PERFECT SYNCHRONIZATION, THE HELPLESS MAN BRINGS HIS CANE DOWN AGAIN AND AGAIN, EACH BLOW MATCHING THE BLOWS OF HIS SHADOW'S CANE!
NO! NO! STOP, SHADOW! STOP, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

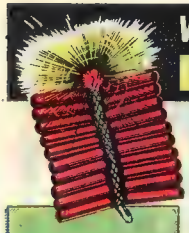
BUT WHEN THE SHADOW STOPS AND THE IMITATING ARM HALTS ITS DEADLY WORK, IT IS TOO LATE...
A WEEK PASSES, A WEEK OF FEAR AND GUILT...
C-CAN'T TURN ON THE LIGHTS LIKE I USED TO WHEN I SHADOW-BOXED! MAYBE THAT'S IT! MY SHADOW'S GETTING BACK AT ME! I-I'VE GOT TO STAY IN THE DARK!
BUT CRAMPED IN HIS DINGY ROOM, PERCY MERRIWEATHER AT LAST IS FORCED OUT INTO THE DARK STREETS! HE STROLLS BY AN UNLIT PARK WALK, BUT SUDDENLY...
THE CAR'S LIGHTS THROW HIS SHADOW ON THE HIGH WALL ABOVE THE ROCKY RIVER SIDE...
THEN WITH MURDEROUS INTENT, THE SHADOW MOVES...
AND MERRIWEATHER'S HANDS DUPLICATE THE VILE ACTION!
THE LIGHT'S PASSED! I CAN STOP MY ARMS NOW... BUT IT'S TOO LATE!
AEEEEEE!
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHO SCREAMED?
THEY'LL SEE ME! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FAST!

A MINUTE LATER, A SIREN WAILS DOWN THE STREET, AS A POLICE CAR'S SPOTLIGHT PROBES THE DARKNESS AND FEAR-CRAZED PERCY MERRIWEATHER FLEES...



ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER! ATLAS

# WHY BUY STOCK ASSORTMENTS?
# PICK OUT YOUR OWN
# FIREWORKS



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- Floral Shells
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SEND 25¢ TODAY — ASK FOR LOT FU 3
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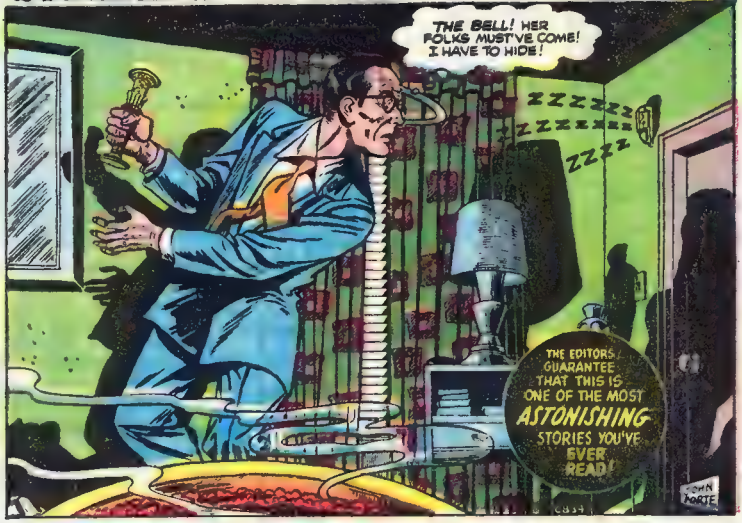
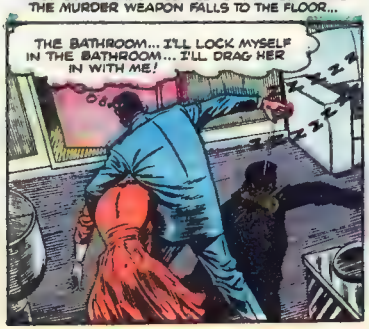
NOW TO WIND UP OUR FRIGHTFUL FIVESOME! LEND AN EAR TO THE DOORBELL THAT TOLLS FOR MACK... USUALLY A NICE HOSPITABLE FELLOW! BUT RIGHT NOW, HE'S IMPRESSED WITH A SLIGHT CASE OF CORPUS DELICTI!

# COME IN AND MEET THE FOLKS!


THE BELL! HER FOLKS MUST'VE COME! I HAVE TO HIDE!
ZZZZZZZ
ZZZZZZZ
ZZZZ
THE EDITORS GUARANTEE THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST ASTONISHING STORIES YOU'VE EVER READ!
JOHN HORTA

MY NERVES SHRIEK IN AGONY AS THE BELL KEEPS RINGING! MY HAND RELAXES FOR AN INSTANT AND THE MURDER WEAPON FALLS TO THE FLOOR...




I CAN HEAR THE OUTSIDE DOOR CREAK SLOWLY OPEN! I CAN HEAR THEM STEP INSIDE! I CAN HEAR A WOMAN'S VOICE, A MAN'S...ANOTHER MAN'S AND A YOUNG GIRL'S... BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO WHAT THEY SAY! I'M GOING TO SPEND THE FEW MINUTES OF LIFE THAT I STILL HAVE LEFT, *REMEMBERING*...

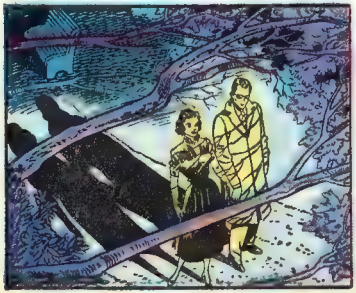
REMEMBERING...FIRST, THAT NIGHT FOUR MONTHS AGO IN THE PARK... I HAD STOPPED NEAR A CLUMP OF TREES...

I TOOK MY GLASSES OFF, BEGAN WIPING THEM...SUDDENLY I BECAME AWARE OF A PRESENCE BESIDE ME... A SHADOW THAT WAS DENSER THAN IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN...

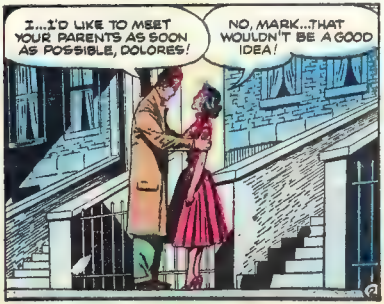
MY NAME IS DOLORES! I WAS STANDING HERE, KIND SIR, TRYING TO OUTSTARE THE MOON ...AND ALONG YOU CAME AND BEGAN SQUEALING A STUCK PIG!

HER LIPS BARELY MOVED AS SHE SPOKE! THEY REMAINED CURVED IN A MYSTERIOUS SMILE...I BEGAN STAMMERING EXCUSES...

WE WALKED TOGETHER AFTER THAT! I TALKED AND SHE LISTENED! IT WAS A WONDERFUL FEELING FOR ME...I'D NEVER BEEN SO RELAXED WITH A GIRL BEFORE...



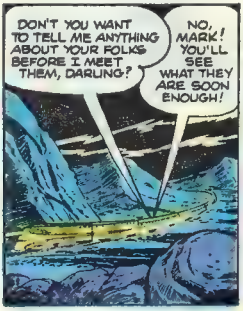
LATER, AFTER I'D SEEN HER HOME AND SHE'D LET ME KISS HER, I ASKED HER ABOUT HER FOLKS FOR THE FIRST TIME! IMMEDIATELY, HER FACE CLOUDED OVER...



DOLORES AND I WENT EVERYWHERE TOGETHER AFTER THAT NIGHT...MOVIES, DANCING, WALKING...SHE WAS AS SWEET AND WONDERFUL AS ANY GIRL COULD BE... *BUT SHE REFUSED TO TALK ABOUT HER FOLKS!*

LISTEN TO ME, DOLORES... I LOVE YOU AND WANT TO MARRY YOU! BUT ALL THIS MYSTERY ABOUT YOUR FOLKS... IT'S GETTING UNDER MY SKIN! *WHEN AM I GOING TO MEET THEM?*
AFTER WE'RE MARRIED! WE'LL TRAVEL DOWN TO WHERE THEY LIVE ON OUR HONEYMOON!

THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE SATISFIED ME... BUT IT DID! WE WERE MARRIED A WEEK LATER, AND DOLORES ASKED ME TO BUY TWO RAILROAD TICKETS FOR A TOWN IN THE HILL COUNTRY OF KENTUCKY...

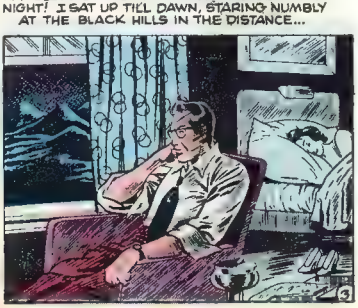



DOLORES INSISTED THAT WE REGISTER AT A SMALL HOTEL ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...

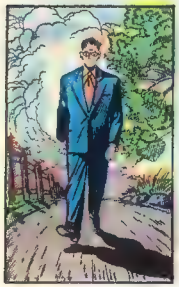
DARLING, I'VE BEEN VERY PATIENT... BUT THERE'S A LIMIT! WE'VE TRAVELED MORE THAN A 1,000 MILES TO MEET YOUR FOLKS! *NOW WHERE ARE THEY?*
LOOK OUT OF THIS WINDOW, MARK!

I LOOKED...AND ALL I SAW WERE THE BLACK, MENACING HILLS THRUSTING UP INTO THE EERIE NIGHT LIKE HOODED WITCHES...

THE WAY SHE'D SAID IT..."*THEY'LL BE HERE TOMORROW!*" THE DESPAIR IN HER VOICE, THE NAMELESS SORROW! I COULDN'T SLEEP THAT NIGHT! I SAT UP TILL DAWN, STARING NUMBLY AT THE BLACK HILLS IN THE DISTANCE...



THE NEXT MORNING... *THIS MORNING*... I WALKED OUT BY MYSELF! SOON I'D LEFT THE TOWN BEHIND ME...

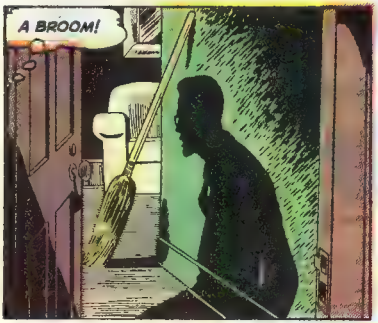


I WALKED SLOWLY, MY FINGERS CLENCHED TIGHTLY BY MY SIDE INTO TWO QUIVERING FISTS...

I CAN HARDLY BREATHE, I'M SO SCARED! MAYBE I WAS WRONG TO COME DOWN HERE!

*FEAR*, LIKE A SKY-ROCKET, SUDDENLY BURST INSIDE ME...AND I FOUND MYSELF RUNNING FRENZIEDLY BACK TO THE HOTEL!

THE FIRST THING I SAW WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR OF THE HOTEL ROOM WAS...




THE BLINDS WERE DRAWN, AND EVERYTHING WAS IN SHADOW! BUT THEN I SAW DOLORES BENDING OVER...

OF COURSE! IT ALL ADDS UP! THE WAY SHE APPEARED OUT OF NOTHINGNESS IN THE PARK! THE WAY SHE DIDN'T WANT ME TO MEET HER FOLKS! THE BROOM...AND NOW THE CAULDRON! IT ALL ADDS UP...*I'VE MARRIED A WITCH!*

AND NOW...THERE'S ONLY THIS THIN DOOR BETWEEN ME AND HER FOLKS...

ANYBODY HOME?

I CAN HEAR THEM MOVING ABOUT IN THE DARK... WHY DON'T THEY SWITCH THE LIGHT ON? WHY DON'T THEY PULL UP THE BLINDS? BECAUSE THEY LIKE THE DARK?

THEY'RE RATTLING THE KNOB OF THE BATHROOM DOOR NOW! I WON'T LET THEM GET ME...I WON'T!

POISON... I'LL TAKE POISON!

AAAARGH!

I'M GETTING WEAKER AND WEAKER! SUDDENLY THE LIGHT CLICKS ON OUTSIDE, AND I CAN HEAR THEIR VOICES PLAINLY...

LOOK, MAW...ONE OF THOSE NEW FANGLED LIGHTIN' GADGETS... AN' I WORKED IT ALL MESELF!

A BROOM! WEREN'T THAT SWEET OF DORRIE! I WROTE HER TO PICK UP A NEW ONE HERE IN TOWN FER ME!

LOOKIE, MAW, AT THIS BASIN! MMMM... ISN'T THET A PURTY COLOR DORRIE WAS D'YEIN' THET BLOUSE?

WAL, WHAR IS THAT STUCK-UP NIECE OF MINE? I FIGGERED SHE'D PULL SUMPTHIN' LIKE THIS ON US... SHE ALWAYS WAS ASHAMED OF US HILL-BILLY FOLKS!

WELL, FANS OF THE FANTASTIC...HERE'S OUR SPECIAL INVITATION TO YOU TO LOOK FOR THE NEXT SPINE-TINGLING ISSUE OF ASTONISHING TERROR TALES, WHEN WE'LL TAKE YOU ON AN EXCITING VISIT TO "THE MACABRE MUSEUM"... AND ALSO FIND OUT THE REASON WHY "THE CORPSE VANISHES!" BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR THE NEXT BIG ISSUE... WE'LL BE EXPECTING YOU!

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ASTONISHING

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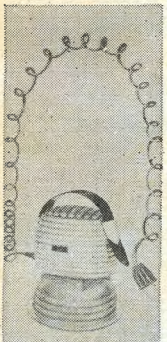
# ELECTRIC Spot Reducer

**Relaxing • Soothing Penetrating Massage**

PLUG IN GRASP HANDLE AND APPLY

UL UNDERWRITERS LABORATORY APPROVED



Take pounds off—keep slim and trim with Spot Reducer! Remarkable new invention which uses one of the most effective reducing methods employed by masseurs and turkish baths—MASSAGE!

FOR GREATEST BENEFIT IN REDUCING by massage use SPOT REDUCER with or without electricity—Also used as an aid in the relief of pains for which massage is indicated.

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LIKE a magic wand, the "Spot Reducer" obeys your every wish. Most any part of your body where it is loose and flabby, wherever you have extra weight and inches, the "Spot Reducer" can aid you in acquiring a youthful, slender and graceful figure. The beauty of this scientifically designed Reducer is that the method is so simple and easy, the results quick, sure and harmless. No exercises or strict diets. No steambaths, drugs or laxatives.

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When you use the Spot Reducer, it's almost like having your own private masseur at home. It's fun reducing this way! It not only helps you reduce and keep slim—but also aids in the relief of those types of aches and pains—and tired nerves that can be helped by massage! The Spot Reducer is handsomely made of light weight aluminum and rubber and truly a beautiful invention you will be thankful you own. AC 110 volts. Underwriters Laboratory approved.

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# NEW! 1953 "Space Commander"

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